

**For immediate release**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Victoria Harbour as a Harbour -  
the launch of the Harbour Study, the Harbour Database  
and the Interactive Harbour Map**

**9 June 2011, Hong Kong** – The Harbour Business Forum (HBF) has today released a new study on Hong Kong's harbour that for the first time considers both land and water-based issues in and around the harbour on an integrated basis. The study '*Victoria Harbour as a Harbour: The Importance of Integrated Land-Water Planning*', has been developed from a newly created database, which is being made publicly available to support policy formulation and decision making about the future of one of Hong Kong's greatest assets.

The database - [www.victoriaharbour.hk](http://www.victoriaharbour.hk) - captures information about the harbour's marine and land assets, their uses and interfaces. From this data an interactive harbour map has been generated, showing the location of these facilities in and around the harbour. The database will be updated periodically.

The study shows that marine activity in Hong Kong's harbour is evolving dynamically and that water-based activity interacts with and often dictates the nature of adjoining harbourfront development. The critical nature of this interaction reinforces the need for overarching planning and management of the harbour as advocated by the HBF's earlier report '*Integrated Harbour Vision and Delivery Plan – The Business case*'.

The study shows that while the balance and mix of water-based commercial activities are changing, they are set to remain a critical component of Hong Kong's trade and economy for the foreseeable future. Factors in these changes include the continuing decline of the fishing fleet, the future completion of the new cruise terminal at Kai Tak, increased cross-boundary traffic but declining intra-Hong Kong ferry traffic.

The study also identified strong demand for leisure activity but an apparent shortage of the necessary moorings and storage opportunities for public use.

Most of these commercial and leisure developments require reconsideration and upgrading of landside access to the harbour. In particular, the study noted that those activities that are water-dependent must be on the harbourfront and need to be supported by harbourfront facilities and sheltered water access. Prioritisation of sheltered water for these uses may require policy changes, including reconsideration of the current cautious interpretation of the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance.

Commenting on the study, Mr. Rhdyian Cox the Executive Committee Chairman of the HBF said, "Our starting point is simple: Victoria Harbour is first and foremost a harbour and only when land and water issues are considered collectively is the whole greater than simply the sum of parts". Mr. Cox further affirmed. "Victoria Harbour is so important to Hong Kong that a plan for the harbour's future is a plan for the city's future."

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**Notes to the media**

**About the Harbour Business Forum:**

The Harbour Business Forum (HBF) was formally launched in 2005, due to a concern about how developments in and around the harbour could have a negative impact upon the future development of Hong Kong. An initiative of the Business Environment Council, HBF is a membership-supported organisation and now one of the largest business alliances with 121 business members – including 10 Patron Members, 29 Corporate Members, 53 Professional Members and 29 Supporting Members from business chambers and professional associations. HBF is primarily a research driven think tank with a distinct, if discreet lobbying edge defined by its principles and objectives. These include the creation of an overarching agency for the harbour and the need for any harbour development to have greater access to the harbour. For more details about the HBF, please visit the HBF official website: <http://www.harbourbusinessforum.com>.